

opiate or self-help program. It is the hallmark of authentic religion—and it is the vast, humane contribution of Chuck Colson.

It is a strange feeling to lose a mentor—a sensation of being old and small and exposed outside his shade. Chuck's irrational confidence in my 21-year-old self felt a little like grace itself. The scale of his life—a broad arc from politics to prison to humanitarian achievement—is also the scale of his absence. But no one was better prepared for death. No one more confident in the resurrection—having experienced it once already. So my grief at Chuck's passing comes tempered—because he was Lazarus, and he lives.

ISRAEL CONTINUES TO SHINE 64 YEARS LATER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, 64 years ago, David Ben Gurion declared the establishment of Eretz Israel, the State of Israel. Today, Israel serves as a harbinger of freedom in a part of the world where this concept is not fully embraced by leaders of neighboring states.

The horrific tragedy of the Holocaust instilled a sense of survival in the Jewish people, which led to the creation of the Jewish state. In Israel, the USA found a new ally in promoting democracy, equality and justice. Israel celebrates the diversity and the contributions of people from all walks of life.

Israeli contributions to science and research are testaments to the work-ethic and resilience that define the character of its 7.8 million residents. The Israeli Defense Forces prepares each generation with the skills and innovation that have earned a small city like Tel Aviv the title of being the "Silicon Valley of the Middle East." Israel produces more tech startups per capita than any nation on Earth. We as Americans are especially thankful as many of these companies are expanding to the U.S. and providing high-paying jobs here.

Despite facing overwhelming odds and emboldened adversaries, Israel continues to thrive. America has proudly stood by Israel as it has evolved from a concept, to a state, and to becoming a world-leader for peace. I am honored to represent a Congressional District that has always maintained strong ties with Israel and the Jewish community. We need to continue supporting our brothers and sisters in Israel and ensuring its existence for the rest of time.

HONORING THE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE BOWL TEAM

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor and congratulate the Sandra Day O'Connor High School science bowl team from Helotes, Texas. Led by their coach Tony Potter, these fine young men and women have achieved a spot in the 2012 U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl

competition on April 26–28, 2012 in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

Through their perseverance and hard work the team won their regional elimination tournament to be selected as one of the 69 high schools to compete at the national finals for prizes and rewards. I am proud to congratulate Zac Cozzi, Yun Liang, Paul Cozzi, Jenny Qi, and Robert Perce for this outstanding achievement and wish them the best of luck in the competition.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MSG KEVIN FOUTZ AND SFC THOMAS PAYNE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize MSG Kevin Foutz and SFC Thomas Payne of the United States Army on winning this year's Best Ranger Competition.

The competition took place at Fort Benning, Georgia, over three days and included challenges such as a grenade assault course, a helicopter jump, and the Darby Queen obstacle course, as well as plenty of running.

This marks the third consecutive year that soldiers from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, have won the competition, and the first time that one of the winners was from a non-combat arms MOS.

I congratulate MSG Foutz and SFC Payne on this impressive accomplishment.

May God bless them, their families, and our great nation.

RECOGNIZING ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of Israeli Independence Day and to honor a country that has made huge strides since its independence in 1948.

In my close-knit Buffalo neighborhood, where I was born and raised, I learned that while friends may not agree on everything, they do always have each other's back. Israel is our friend, with good reason, and that is something I hope our country never forgets.

Last week, we honored Holocaust Remembrance Day. We join our Israeli friends in mourning those who lost their lives in this attempted genocide of the Jewish people and also promise to move forward ensuring that history will never repeat itself.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Israel on the 64th anniversary of their independence and hope for many more years of mutual friendship between our nations.

UNIFORMED CHAIN OF CUSTODY

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to restore respect for the remains of our fallen heroes by mandating a uniformed chain of custody for overseas military casualties.

Since the beginning of combat operations in Afghanistan, there have been several instances of gross misconduct in the treatment of the remains of our fallen heroes. Body parts have been lost, the cremated remains of 274 servicemembers were dumped in a landfill, and in one incident a Marine was dismembered in order to fit inside his uniform. In each of these unfortunate examples, non-uniformed personnel were intimately involved in the callous behavior. To ensure the reverent care of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country, I am sponsoring a bill that mandates a uniformed member of the armed services be accountable for the remains of overseas casualties from the battlefield until the remains are accepted by the member's next of kin.

Civilian personnel involved in the chain of custody are not subject to the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, UCMJ, and the Department of Justice has not seen fit to prosecute a single case of misconduct. A uniformed chain of custody law would clearly define accountability for the remains as a military honor and duty, and any violations of this responsibility will be punishable under UCMJ.

The men and women who serve as our nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have few assurances when they deploy to combat to defend our nation. One of the few assurances they do have is that if they make the ultimate sacrifice and lay down their lives in the line of duty, then their remains will be treated with the utmost dignity and respect of a grateful nation. I believe this is not only a legal requirement, but also our moral obligation. My legislation will reassure servicemembers and their families that our nation honors their service in life and in death.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Democratic motion to instruct conferees on the surface transportation reauthorization bill (H.R. 4348 and S. 1813).

While the Senate bill is not perfect, it does provide certainty to State DOTs, transit agencies, and contractors that will help create and sustain jobs for out-of-work Americans. Further, it creates or saves more than two million jobs and strengthens our economy. The legislation passed the Senate by a vote of 74 to 22, with strong Democratic and Republican support.